

## Weekly Column for January 27, 2005

Are you ready for spring yet? I certainly am.

During the last week we have been inundated with snow and cold, and ice and frost. It had not been fun, but we expect it in the Northeast so we cannot complain too much. However, I just wanted to list a few reminders for you this week that will hopefully allow the rest of the winter to pass along smoothly.

In the case of significant snowfall, please have your sidewalks shoveled within 24 hours of the snow stopping. I know this can be quite a pain sometimes, particularly when you shovel and plow puts it back on the sidewalk. However, it must be done. I will let you know that we have directed plows to drive no faster than 10 miles per hour in neighborhoods in an effort to limit the snow flying onto sidewalks, and to push it back to the curb as closely as possible.

Also, if you live near a fire hydrant, it would help us out a lot if you could shovel that out for safety purposes. If you cannot please do not worry, we will send around crews to do so. But there are so many in the City, it could help in the long run.

I would like to take a minute to clear up any confusion about the last storm and the City not calling a snow emergency. I released a statement to the media asking that, if possible, people move their cars into the driveway or a parking garage to assist us in the cleanup. It is very difficult for people in Troy to have a snow emergency because of a lack of places to park. Voluntarily asking for people to move their cars worked well this time. Downtown streets looked nice, as did other neighborhoods.

We certainly will not be hesitant to call a snow emergency in the future, if we feel it is needed. Every snowstorm is different as Bob Mirch likes to say, and this one was a storm we felt we could handle.

Thank you for all your patience and do your best to stay warm.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy